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Repayment of the loan advanced to the Cocanada Municipality.

* 1318 Q.—Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have altered the number of instalments for the repayment of the loan offered to the Municipal Council, Cocanada, for the construction of market stalls from twenty into ten instalments ;

(b) the reasons which weighed with the Government for changing the proposed scheme of twenty yearly instalments into ten ; and

(c) whether the Government intend to direct the loan to be repayable on twenty yearly instalments ?

A.—(a) & (b) In September 1927 the Government offered to give a loan repayable in twenty years but when publishing the loan they reduced the period to ten years as they found on an examination of the Council's finances that it could repay the loan in ten years without inconvenience. Loans for remunerative schemes are ordinarily repayable in this period.

(c) No.

Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu :—" May I ask the hon. the Minister whether it is not a fact that the municipality has again requested the Government to grant a concession of twenty years' period for repayment in view of the financial commitments for electrical and water-works scheme ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" Yes, they have made representation to that effect."

Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu :—" May I know whether the Government would take a sympathetic view of the matter in view of the financial condition of the municipality ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" That is under consideration."

Tours

Tour of the hon. the Minister in Malabar.

1319 Q.—Mr. K. Madhavan Nayar : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) the number of days he travelled in Malabar during his last tour in Malabar ;

(b) the names of places he visited ;

(c) the names of the taluk boards and municipalities that presented addresses of welcome to him ;

(d) whether the Calicut Municipality invited him to be present at a meeting specially to be convened to meet him ; and

(e) the reason why he declined the invitation ?

A.—(a) Eight.

(b) Olavakkod, Palghat, Vellinazhi, Tirur, Tanur, Calicut, Tellicherry, Mahe and Cannanore.

(c) Ernad Taluk Board, Calicut Taluk Board, Ponnani Taluk Board and Cannanore Municipal Council.

(d) Yes.

(e) Because the invitation came only on the day the Minister arrived at Calicut and as all arrangements were made beforehand it was not possible to find the time to be present at the meeting.

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Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" May I know when the tour programme was communicated to the Municipal Council, Calicut, and when the invitation to the hon. the Minister was issued ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" As I have said in the answer, my tour programme was communicated about three weeks before I went on tour and the invitation was received on the morning I arrived at Calicut."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" My question was not when it was *received*, but when it was *issued* by the municipality ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I am not aware when the thing was issued by the municipality."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" May I know whether an invitation is essential to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government to visit the premier municipality in the district ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" I let them know when I am coming. That is all my business."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" May I ask whether the Chairman of the Municipal Council did not wait for him at the railway station and tell him that the municipal council would wait for him for three hours in the evening if he would find at least five minutes to go over there ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" My programme was full as I said in the answer."

Tours of the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government.

* 1320 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased—

(i) to place before the House a statement of the tours made by him and the cost of each up to the 31st December 1928 ; and

(ii) to state—

(*a*) the object of each tour ;

(*b*) whether the places visited had not been seen by the hon. the Minister before ;

(*c*) whether a personal visit and inspection was absolutely necessary ; and

(*d*) whether a report from the head of the department concerned was not found sufficient as to the requirements of the several places or institutions visited by him ?

A.—(i) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to clauses (*a*) and (*b*) of question No. 296, dated 8th September 1928. Subsequently two tours were made, viz.,

(1) to Thirthamalai and Ootacamund, and

(2) to the West Coast (Malabar and South Kanara districts).

The cost of the tours from 1st April 1928 to 31st December 1928 as reported by the Accountant-General, Madras, is Rs. 5,532-0-9.